

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02199 171635Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 BIB-01  
SES-02 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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O 171532Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6021

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK 10TH ANNIVERSARY -- CONTINGENCY PRESS  
GUIDANCE

1. TEN YEARS AFTER THE SOVIET ARMED INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO STOP DUBCEK'S "PRAGUE SPRING" REFORM PROGRAM, ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES MOSCOW CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR TIGHT ALIGNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET POLICIES. THE SOVIETS' HEAVY HAND, BACKED UP BY THE PRESENCE OF THE RED ARMY, CONTINUES TO SHAPE CZECHOSLOVAK POLICIES, MOREOVER, DESPITE WESTERN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN THE COURSE OF 1972-1975 NEGOTIATIONS AT CSCE TO UNDERCUT THE "BREZHNEV DOCTRINE" OF LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY IN THE "SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH".

2. THE CURRENT SITUATION HERE IS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE IN EUROPE OF AN ONGOING VIOLATION OF THE CSCE "PRINCIPLES GUIDING RELATIONS BETWEEN PARTICIPATING STATES", WHICH THE USSR AND ALL OTHER CSCE SIGNATORIES AGREED TO RESPECT AT THE 1975 HELSINKI SUMMIT. WE THINK IT PARTICULARLY HYPOCRITICAL THAT MOSCOW WOULD REPEATEDLY INVOKE THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT'S 6TH PRINCIPLE ON NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02199 171635Z

INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS A PLOY TO WARD OFF WESTERN CRITICISM OF EASTERN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

3. ACCORDINGLY, AS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION DRAWS NEARER, WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER RELEASE OF A PRESS STATEMENT CALLING ATTENTION TO CONCERN OF THE USG, AS A SIGNATORY OF THE

HELSINKI FINAL ACT, OVER THE SOVIET UNION'S MANIFEST VIOLATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF CSCE PRINCIPLES -- ESPECIALLY THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT SHOULD BE CAST IN TERMS OF PRINCIPLE -- AS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 26, 1977 STATEMENT ON THE THEN-EMERGING CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT (77 STATE 018234). IN THE PRESENT CASE, TOO, WE THINK OFFICIAL COMMENTARY OUGHT TO BE PRESENTED AS A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE.

4. PERHAPS A RESPONSE TO A PRESS INQUIRY COULD BE MADE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

ANSWER: OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE ON THIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR COUNTRY BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND FOUR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT. THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDRESSED IN A TREATY SIGNED IN OCTOBER 1968, BUT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS SIGNED UNDER DURESS. A BASIC AIM OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT SIGNED IN 1975 WAS TO GUARD AGAINST THE REPETITIVE OF SUCH GROSS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A EUROPEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 02199 171635Z

STATE. ON THIS OCCASION, WE MIGHT SOLEMNLY REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL OF THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE FINAL ACT.

5. DECONTROL AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, INSTRUCTIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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